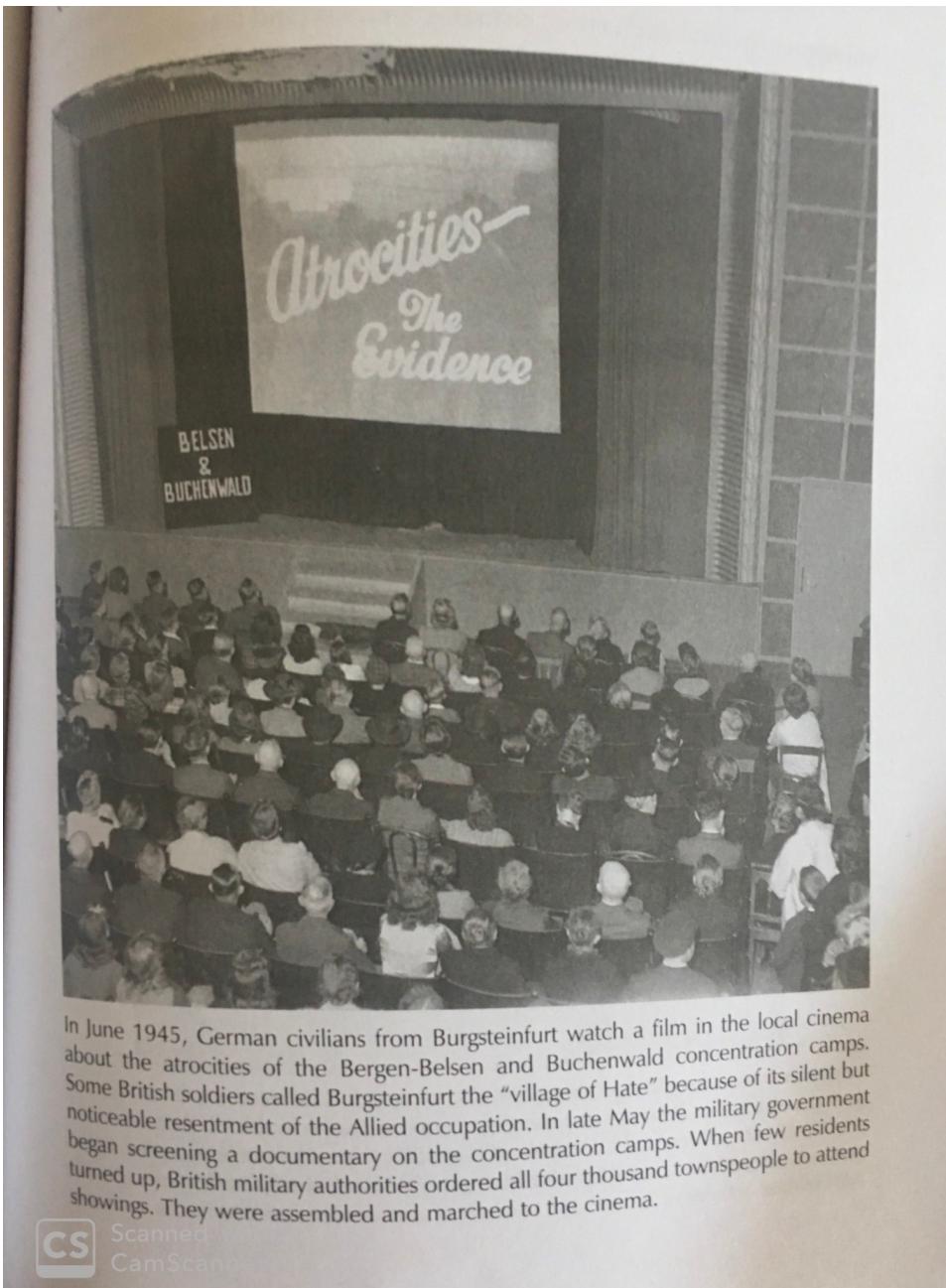


Critically analyze the historical photograph on p. 307 (also seen below) of Doris Bergen's *War and Genocide*, suggesting what insight it offers about how the meaning of "justice" evolved in the wake of the Second World War.



World War II's aftermath spurred a reevaluation of principles such as justice and human rights, as highlighted in the photograph on page 307 of Doris Bergen's *War and Genocide*. The image, illustrating German civilians being mandated to watch a documentary about the horrors of concentration camps, provides crucial insight into a profound evolution in the concept of justice. This change includes a transition from a punitive paradigm to a more restorative one, an expanded definition of accountability that involves not just leaders but also ordinary citizens, and a recognition that some crimes are of such severity that they hold global implications beyond national jurisdictions.

Historically, responsibility for justice was primarily associated with governmental and military authorities, but this moment captures the shift towards implicating the broader population as well. In the photograph, civilians are exposed to the realities of concentration camps and forced to watch the film after a lack of attendance. Compelling all civilians irrespective of their level of involvement, even those from a town as small and seemingly uninvolved as Burgsteinfurt, underscores the notion of collective responsibility for the Holocaust and suggests that the populace indirectly or directly supported the Nazi government's atrocities. This instance also elucidates a transition from the traditional concept of retributive justice to a more nuanced understanding that encompasses both legal punishment and moral education. The Allies' insistence on publicizing these documentaries for an extended period demonstrates a conscious attempt to make the recognition of the Holocaust's horrors a key aspect of the postwar recovery process. This method goes beyond merely penalizing those in power, as it attempts to instill a sense of moral accountability among the German people. Therefore, the photograph portrays an expansion of culpability for the Holocaust to ordinary Germans and a shift from retributive to restorative justice.

Moreover, this episode highlights a budding international perspective on justice, as seen through Britain's decision to impose a form of moral reckoning on Germany. This action signifies a shift from a state-focused view of justice towards a more global one that transcends national boundaries and jurisdictions. By compelling the German public to face the horrors perpetrated in the concentration camps, the British authorities were holding them responsible not merely under national laws, but also under a wider understanding of human rights and morality. This instance accentuates the postwar emphasis on universal human rights and a shared global responsibility. Thus, this photograph encapsulates a moment in history when the frameworks of justice and accountability were being redefined, expanding beyond state boundaries to include collective societal responsibility. This evolution marks the inception of an international, human-rights based approach to justice, emphasizing universal standards of conduct and shared global responsibility for atrocities.

References

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, Conclusion.

Sarah Stein, "Postwar Trials, International Justice, and Definitions of Genocide," HIST 5
(lecture, UCLA, 2023)

Sarah Stein, "Conclusions," HIST 5 (lecture, UCLA, 2023)